

United States Senate

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Bloomington's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program offered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Funding from this program will enable Bloomington to fund improvements to the Hamilton Road East-West Gap project.

Located in Central Illinois, Bloomington sits at the crossroads of three major interstate corridors, connecting with Indianapolis and the Quad Cities on Interstate 74, Chicago to St. Louis on Interstate 55, and Interstate 39 to Madison Wisconsin. The City is home to a diverse group of businesses and residents including State Farm Insurance, ranked 36th on the Fortune 500, Country Financial and Illinois Wesleyan University. Through the Hamilton Road East-West Gap, the City endeavors to provide safer, easier roadway travel, especially at the U.S. 150, Rhodes Lane, and Norfolk Southern Railroad confluence with reduced traffic load on the Interstate 55 Business route (Veterans Parkway). In addition, the project will facilitate multi-modal travel by connecting the Constitution Trail multi-use path along the route and create the potential for more safe and efficient mass transit connections. Finally, the project will boost economic development opportunities in the project area, enhancing access to existing employers and sparking new development along the completed Hamilton Road corridor.

As a senator and member of the Committee of Commerce, Science and Transportation, I have made modernizing Illinois' transportation infrastructure one of my top priorities. Bloomington's proposal aligns with both my priorities and the core goals of the RAISE program by improving transit safety, fostering regional economic competitiveness and enhancing the quality of life for Illinois residents.

Please accept this letter of support for the City Bloomington's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge you to give their application full and fair consideration. For any questions, please contact my State Director Cameron Joost at (217) 528-6124.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator